

behind his parents, Larry and Nancy Kirchhoff, and two children. Nothing I can say can alleviate their sense of loss, but they remain in my thoughts and prayers. The death of a fellow Iowan brings home the incredible cost of war for me and for other Iowans. David Kirchhoff served his country honorably and was a dedicated soldier, but it is important that we remember him also as a husband, a son, a father, and a friend. Many Iowans are getting to know David Kirchhoff through news stories. We can identify with him and I know many people feel his loss whether they knew him or not. As we honor his tremendous sacrifice, we also honor his life and his memory lives on.

Mr. President, I also come before the Senate today to pay tribute to a fellow Iowan, PVT Michael J. Deutsch. On July 31, 2003, while serving our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Private Deutsch was killed when an explosive round hit the armored personnel vehicle in which he was riding. A 2000 graduate of Dubuque Senior High School, Michael Deutsch joined the U.S. Army in 2002. He served with the 1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry Division in Budinggen, Germany before being deployed to Iraq. I would like to express my deepest sympathy to his parents, Wayne and Ilene Deutsch, as well as the rest of his family, his friends, and his community during these difficult times as they cope with their loss. All of America mourns its fallen sons and daughters, yet we feel an overwhelming sense of appreciation for those who risk their lives for our sake. It's soldiers like Michael that protect our country against those who wish to steal what generations of Americans have worked so hard to maintain—our freedom.

After leaving for the Army, Michael wrote these words to his father:

When changes come we're never ready.
Always thinking of what we should have done.

But I am strong.

You have seen to that.

As I move on I carry with me that which you have given to me, your love.

It is always a tragedy when a young life is ended prematurely, but Private Michael J. Deutsch's legacy of bravery and ultimate sacrifice is one for which we, as Americans, will forever be in his debt.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, at a time when our country's security is challenged on so many fronts, there are those among us who lament that this generation is too inward looking and too selfish to stand up to the task that has befallen them. But they are wrong.

There are Americans, who, raised in a cold conflict with a foe now long past and used to the privilege of liberty and justice, still choose to define themselves by their service to their countrymen and to men and women the world over whom they have never met but for whose freedom they would lay down their lives in sacrifice.

Army SSG Richard S. Eaton Jr. of Guilford, CT, was one such man, and it

is in his honor that I rise to speak today.

Sergeant Eaton, who was assigned to the Army's 323rd Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort Meade, was a mere 37 years old when he died in Ramadi, Iraq, on August 12 of this year.

Of poor consolation to his family and friends is that Sergeant Eaton died while doing what he loved—soldiering in the service of his Nation.

Soldiering and service defined this young man's life and were in his blood; he had many relatives who had served in the U.S. military, including Civil War GEN Amos Eaton, William Eaton, who helped reinstate the deposed leader of Tripoli and rescue American captives in the early 1800s, and both of Sergeant Eaton's grandfathers, who were veterans of World War I and World War II, respectively.

Sergeant Eaton learned about a soldier's life from the stories that his grandfathers told about their own service and the service of their ancestors, and in that retelling, a young Richard Eaton Jr. found something that transfixed him, some quality of honor, of humility, of service. He decided he wanted to be a soldier.

In this goal, Sergeant Eaton succeeded like few soldiers ever do, and for his valor he will be posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for Valor. According to his friends, family, and colleagues, Sergeant Eaton served capably, honorably, and humbly. He never bragged about his numerous citations and commendations, which he only accidentally unveiled to his family when on leave from active duty in Honduras.

When his nearly decade-long tour of duty with the Army was over, Sergeant Eaton went to work at the Pentagon for a military contractor. Still a member of the Army Reserves, he was activated for service this winter and reported for duty to Iraq.

Through his service, Sergeant Eaton demonstrated the best ideals of the American people: service in the face of adversity, a striking unselflessness, and sacrifice not only for his own countrymen, but also for a people whom he had never met.

And so today, I join the senior Senator from Connecticut, Mr. DODD, Governor Rowland, and the people of a grateful State and Nation in paying my most sincere condolences to Sergeant Eaton's family, and my deepest respects to the departed sergeant himself.

Our hearts and prayers go out to his parents in their time of grief.

Know that your son's contributions and ultimate sacrifice will not soon be forgotten.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO E.W. DENNISON

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to E.W. Dennison, the Murray State University Athletic Di-

rector. Mr. Dennison is an outstanding leader under whose guidance Murray State University has achieved an important balance between athletics and scholarship.

In the 6 years since Mr. Dennison assumed his position as athletic director, Murray State University has seen a marked improvement in its graduation rate for student athletes. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education's 2003-2004 Almanac issue, Murray State University ranks first for having the highest graduation rate among NCAA Division I institutions in Kentucky. This is the second straight year Murray State University has led Kentucky's State-funded institutions in graduation rates of athletes. Prior to Mr. Dennison's tenure as athletic director, it had been several years since Murray State University graduated a senior basketball player. This year Mr. Dennison boasts the readiness of several senior basketball players to graduate.

Additionally, Mr. Dennison has set high standards for academic achievement. The grade point average (GPA) for student athletes at Murray State University is as high as the GPA of the larger student body. Mr. Dennison stresses the importance of good study habits and higher learning and his athletes will graduate with a preparedness for more than just athletics.

Murray State University's athletics programs are poised for a record-setting year on the playing field this year. The balance of academics and athletics that Mr. Dennison has achieved has not come at the expense of either discipline. Rather, Murray State University student athletes are excelling in the classroom and on the playing fields.

Mr. Dennison is a paragon of leadership in Kentucky's institutions of higher education, and his leadership is one that should be emulated across this country. He is a tribute to Kentucky. I thank the Senate for allowing me to honor this remarkable man.●

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in Washington, D.C. On August 16, 2003, Elvys Augusto Perez, 25, was shot and killed. Mr. Perez was an immigrant from Guatemala who dressed and lived as a woman. Police have classified the first-degree murder as a hate crime.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement